

Mock trial and other academic teams have earned state championship titles and athletic teams have produced championship titles at county, regional and state levels.

Management style at Kittatinny emphasizes collaborative decision-making, site-based management and teacher/staff empowerment. Committees deal with current and future needs of the school and allow the faculty to have a voice in changes in policy.

Kittatinny students are well prepared by their teachers, parents and role models in the community. They can rest assured they will be able to handle whatever challenges they choose in life. Once again, congratulations to everyone involved in this impressive achievement.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF THE
LEHIGH VALLEY

HON. PAUL McHALE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. McHALE. Mr. Speaker, in this season of graduation throughout the country, today I would like to highlight the achievements of a very special group of students. Four years ago, Communities In Schools of the Lehigh Valley created a new "Academy" within William Allen High School in Allentown, PA, in my district. Young people who were at risk of dropping out of school were identified and asked to participate in this new program. With the support of the Allentown School District, an innovative curriculum was created and instituted by two teachers: James R. Gollatz and Darryl Skrovanek. Mr. Gollatz was recently honored as a "Teacher of the Year" at the high school. Mr. Skrovanek has taken a leadership role as President of the Allentown Education Association.

The students recruited into the program found a safe place where they could successfully learn and prepare for life. When additional services were needed to help, Communities In Schools forged partnerships with scores of other organizations to meet these needs. These students found the resources within themselves, in the school, and in the community to meet their challenge. They stayed in school.

Next week, on June 10th, 1998, this group of young adults will accomplish something perhaps they and others doubted they could do: they will graduate with a diploma from William Allen High School. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the accomplishments of: Albert Albino, Saywood Cross, Brent Davis, Theresa Duch, Lazarus Figueroe, Jeffrey Freer, Zila Gonzalez, Shane Heiser, Stephen Hertzog, Mellisa Koehler, Peter Macias, Mathew Reese, Shuree Riddick, Jennifer Seltzer, Jessica Snyder, and Lindsey Wargo.

I know you join me in offering heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for all their future endeavors.

HONORING ALEX KIRPNICK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Border Patrol Agent Alex Kirpnick, who was shot and killed last night in Nogales, Arizona. Alex and his partner came upon five drug smugglers crossing just west of Nogales and in the course of doing his job, Alex was killed.

Alex Kirpnick immigrated to the United States from Russia 10 years ago. He had been with the Border Patrol for 20 months and was a highly skilled agent who spoke eight languages. I know from speaking to Alex's colleagues that Alex was a man of great character and he will be missed.

Alex was well-liked and respected by all those he worked with. Alex is survived by his parents, Boris and Eta Kirpnick, and a sister, Zhanna, who live in California. I have never felt the pain of losing a child, but during my tenure as Border Patrol Chief in Texas, I lost many good officers. I would like to extend my condolences to Alex's family and to his colleagues in Nogales who have lost a dear friend and a good agent.

As a former border patrol chief, I know the sacrifices made by the men and women on our border, protecting our communities. I ask all of my colleagues to remember Alex and the often thankless job he performed each and every day. Alex faithfully served our nation and protected our communities while serving on our nation's border and we owe Alex a great debt of gratitude for his service and commitment.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW JERSEY
SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS ON THEIR 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants in commemoration of their 100th anniversary. I am honored to recognize this outstanding association for all that they have done for the state of New Jersey and its citizens. Each year, many New Jersey residents turn to these professionals to help sort through the countless number of forms and regulations that the Internal Revenue Service puts out. It is often our CPA that we can thank for keeping our family or business in compliance with the laws.

The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants was founded on January 19, 1898 in Newark, New Jersey and has served the community ever since. They have experienced significant growth and change in their century of existence. Similarly, they have also sparked much growth and prosperity in partnership with New Jersey businesses and citizens.

The organization has encouraged modifications in the tax rate, has supported state tort reform, and was instrumental in the creation of

the State's Taxpayer Bill of Rights. It is for this that I pay tribute to this organization on this special anniversary. Their record of service to the people of New Jersey has been meritorious and for this I commend them.

I want to congratulate all of the members of the society and thank them for all of their years of dedication and service. It is a pleasure to have many of the members as my constituents and I wish every one of them future success.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
286—UNDERSTANDING THE LINK
BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND
HUMAN VIOLENCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the strong link between violence against animals and violence against people, and to call to the attention of my colleagues House Concurrent Resolution 286 which urges greater attention to identifying and treating individuals who are guilty of violence against animals because of the link between abuse of animals and violence against humans. The resolution also calls for additional research to increase our understanding of the connection between cruelty to animals and violence against humans.

After the recent school shootings in Arkansas and Oregon, heavy attention has been paid to the early signs of the potential for children to commit violent crime. It is no coincidence that the accused in these two tragic cases are juveniles with disturbing histories of animal cruelty and abuse. Mr. Speaker, it is common sense knowledge that any individual who harms animals cruelly and deliberately is not otherwise well adjusted.

Mr. Speaker, the FBI already lists violence against animals as a behavioral trait and characteristic of violent offenders. Almost all serial killers are known to have abused animals. Indeed, cruelty toward animals is often a sign of mental disturbance in both children and adults.

Teachers, principals, parents, and law enforcement officers must all be encouraged to recognize this connection and to take incidences of animal cruelty seriously. An abused animal is often a sign that a spouse, a child, or an elder in the household is or may become the victim of aggression and abuse. A pet may be a surrogate target of violence. Abuse of a household pet often fuels violent tendencies that are a precursor to acts of violence against family members and others.

Violence against animals co-exists with and precedes violent crimes, especially crimes of domestic violence. The Federal Government must not overlook this correlation. By studying this link, we can increase awareness and understanding of violent crime and the potential violent crimes in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities.

Furthermore, we must reject the notion that violence against animals is simply normal societal behavior. If we treat cruelty to animals with a dismissive "boys will be boys," we may well be ignoring critical initial signs that may lead to violent behavior and we may be passing up an opportunity to take action to prevent

a future tragedy. By allowing children and adults to abuse animals without sanction, Mr. Speaker, we are ignoring an important tool in the fight against domestic violence and an important tool in helping to prevent other tragic acts of violence such as those we have seen in Arkansas and Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I have introduced today with the cosponsorship of thirteen of our colleagues expresses the sense of Congress that appropriate Federal agencies thoroughly support and incorporate research on the connection between acts of cruelty against animals and humans. Furthermore, it recognizes the validity and significance of this link.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in encouraging research and awareness about this disturbing connection between violence against animals and violence against people. I ask that the full text of this resolution be placed in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 286

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the link between violence against animals and violence against humans and urging greater emphasis upon identifying and treating individuals who are guilty of violence against animals, which is a crime in its own right in all 50 states, in order to prevent violence against humans and urging research to increase understanding of the connection between cruelty to animals and violence against humans.

Whereas an urgent need exists to prevent violence, especially among juvenile offenders and in domestic situations;

Whereas a strong correlation between animal abuse and violence against humans has been documented by criminal profiling experts associated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who have identified cruelty to animals as one of the three traits often found in the "homicidal traid" which indicates the characteristics of a violent personality;

Whereas a disproportionately high number of violent killers in the prison system admit to having abused animals, and virtually every serial killer and many violent killers have a history of abusing animals;

Whereas many of the recent cases of school violence have involved students with a history of abusing animals;

Whereas individuals who deliberately abuse animals are more likely to abuse their spouse and their children or otherwise be involved in violent crimes;

Whereas some experts believe that abusing animals may increase or fuel the desire to commit violence against humans in certain disturbed individuals;

Whereas animal cruelty is violence and should be recognized as such when assessing an individual's propensity to commit future acts of violent crime;

Whereas intentional animal abuse is an early warning signal that individuals, including young people, could perpetrate violent crimes against other individuals; and

Whereas laws against cruelty to animals have been enacted in all 50 states and provide penalties for the purposeful torture and killing of animals, and the enforcement of these animal abuse laws provide law enforcement officials with an opportunity to bring potentially violent offenders into the criminal justice system before they commit more serious crimes against humans;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress—

(1) recognizes that individuals who abuse animals are more likely to commit more serious violent crimes against humans;

(2) urges social workers, teachers, mental health professionals, and others to be aware of the connection between animal cruelty and human violence and to evaluate carefully and to monitor closely individuals who have a history of abusing animals because this may indicate a propensity to commit violence against other humans;

(3) urges appropriate Federal agencies to encourage and support research to increase the understanding of the connection between cruelty to animals and violence against humans in order to utilize instances of animal abuse to identify and intervene with potentially violent individuals, and urges federal agencies which are undertaking research on violent crime and its causes to incorporate examination of the link between violence against animals and violence against humans;

(4) urges local law enforcement officials to treat cases of animals cruelty seriously both because such cruelty is a crime in its own right in all 50 states and because it is a reliable indicator of the potential for domestic and other forms of violence against humans; and commends the fine work of local animal control officials and humane investigators who enforce laws against animal abuse and urges these professionals to work more closely with local law enforcement personnel to identify and prevent potential violence against humans.

THE MEDICARE CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS CONFORMING ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, President Clinton issued an Executive Memorandum directing all Federal health plans, which serve over 85 million Americans, to come into substantial compliance with the Consumer Bill of Rights recommended by the President's Quality Commission.

The Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry recommended: Consumer information disclosure; choice of providers and plans; access to emergency services; consumer participation in treatment decisions; nondiscrimination protections; confidentiality of health information; access to complaints and appeals processes; and, a recognition of consumer responsibilities.

The Medicare program is already meeting most of these standards, but there are two specific components of the Consumer Bill of Rights that cannot be enforced in Medicare without a statutory fix. Both provisions affect the choice of plans and providers. The first would grant women direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists, the second would grant transitional care protections to patients who are undergoing a course of treatment and faced with an involuntary change in health plans or their doctor leaving the plan.

Today, I rise with my Democratic colleagues from the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee to introduce "The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act" which creates statutory authority for Medicare to fully enforce the President's Quality Commission's Consumer Bill of Rights.

The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act would require health plans to

allow a Medicare beneficiary to select an OB-GYN as her primary care provider if she so chooses. It would also prohibit health plans from requiring women to obtain prior authorization before obtaining routine gynecological care.

An issue of real concern to people in managed care plans, and those thinking of joining them, is that doctors come and go from health plans, resulting in a loss of continuity of care for patients during those transitional times. The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act would create short-term protections for Medicare patients in such situations. Patients undergoing a course of treatment when a health care provider is terminated from the plan would be able to continue that care with the same provider for up to 90 days. Cases involving institutionalization, pregnancy or terminal illness could have longer periods of transitional coverage. In all instances, the provider would need to accept the payment rate of the patient's health plan in order to qualify for continued participation.

The Medicare Consumer Bill of Rights Conforming Act is a small but important piece of legislation that would ensure Medicare beneficiaries of a basic set of consumer protections. These protections are not controversial. They were endorsed by the President's Quality Commission, which included representatives of big business, insurers, small business, labor, consumers, seniors, and the managed care industry. This is a very small step for Congress to take to provide Medicare with the authority to enact these protections for our nation's seniors and disabled population. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this sensible, non-controversial legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDUCE MARRIAGE PENALTY OF EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, along with Representatives McDERMOTT and KENNELLY, I am introducing legislation which addresses the marriage penalty of the earned income tax credit (EITC). Recently, there has been a lot of talk about reducing the marriage penalty. Several bills have been introduced to reduce the penalty. In addition, the House Budget Resolution includes a provision to reduce the marriage penalty.

The focus of reducing the marriage penalty has been geared toward middle income and upper income families. Senator PHIL GRAMM was the first Member of Congress to bring attention to the marriage penalty of the EITC. Senator GRAMM is attempting to amend the tobacco legislation. His amendment addresses the marriage penalty for families with lower incomes and the marriage penalty of the EITC.

Today, we are introducing legislation which addresses part of the marriage penalty in the current Tax Code by increasing the phase-out of the EITC for joint filers with qualifying children. This legislation increases the phase-out by \$3,500. In 1999, the current law phase-out is \$12,520 and this bill increases it to \$16,020. The substantive effect of this bill is the same